



Clermont County Park District

Spring Newsletter

March - May 2012



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Park District News

Chris Clingman, Director

A special thank you to Mary Ann Lefker, Debbie Clepper, Mia Supe, Julie Graybill, and the Friends of East Fork State Park, for putting together the Rock and Roast fundraiser for the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike Bike Trail. The evening event raised over \$6000 for the trail project. Over 200 people attended the event at Pattison Lodge on an icy night. The night featured good food from Ike's Catering, and numerous donors provided a wide variety of items for the silent auction. Thank you to all who attended and supported the event.



The Park District is operating with a smaller budget in 2012 and it will continue to shrink in 2013 unless new revenue sources are found. The Park District will continue to look for partnerships in order to maintain the parks and programs. Recently we have met with other Park Districts in the area to discuss ways we can stretch our resources in order to continue to provide great park experiences throughout the region. We are also working with the Clermont County Health District on grant opportunities to provide more opportunities for physical activity in the county.

If your organization would like to find out more about the Park District and its funding, you can schedule a speaker to come to your organization's meeting. The presentation can be tailored to fit your time schedule. Call 513-732-2977 to find out more information or to set up time for your group.

Memorial Donations

Donations in Memory of Jim Bushman for the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike/Bike trail have been received from:

Linda Fraley
Troy Bushman Family
Jason Fraley Family
Jennifer Hieatt Family
James Fraley Family
Jim Fraley
Sardinia Concrete



Donations to the Mike Rath Memorial Fund have been received from :

Wilma Glover
Wilma Shields



Through the generosity of individuals, families, civic groups, local businesses, and foundations, the Clermont County Park District has been able to provide a variety services and facilities well beyond the limitations of its tax revenue. If you would like to honor a special occasion, a special person, or remember the life of a loved one, consider making a donation to the Park District and help support its mission to preserve part of Clermont County's natural heritage and history. For your donation you will receive an acknowledgement letter and a card will be sent to the honoree or family of the memorial recipient.

To make a donation please fill out the [donor form](#) and send along with a check made out to:

Clermont County Park District
2228 US HWY 50
Batavia, Ohio 45103

Flower Profiles: Trillium

Laura Hoople, Naturalist

Springtime has finally arrived and the woodland wildflowers are making their annual appearance. A short walk through the woods will reveal a variety of blooms: Spring beauty, hepatica, Virginia bluebells, bloodroot, Dutchmans breeches, violets, Jack-in-the-Pulpit. And trillium- lots and lots of trillium.

Trillium are native to North America and Asia, with 39 known species. They are members of the lily family. The various parts of the trillium are found in sets of three: three leaf brackets, three flower petals, etc. This is source of the “tri” in trillium.

Trillium flowers depend on ants to spread seeds after blooming. Seeds have a small fleshy piece that attracts ants; the seeds are carried back to the ants’ nest, the fleshy part is eaten and the seed is discarded as garbage leaving it to germinate and grow. Seeds are not dispersed very far from the parent plant but they are given the benefit of a fertile place to begin growing.

Sycamore Park has the best display of spring woodland wildflowers in the Park District. Enjoy a short hike along the appropriately named Wildflower Loop and look for these three species of trillium.



Sessile Trillium

Trillium sessile

Common names: toadshade, red-trillium, wakerobin, Stinking Benjamin

Sessile trillium is the most abundant woodland flower at Sycamore Park. Clumps are formed through underground rhizomes, creating large numbers of flowers in small areas. Typically, sessile trillium is a low growing flower, usually only reaching 4-6” in height although some may grow up to 12”. Leaves are mottled green and dark purple.

Flowers are a dark maroon color with narrow petals that appear closed, even when fully in bloom. As they age, the flowers fade to a dull green. Some flowers will have pale green petals the entire time they are blooming. There is no stalk on the flower; instead it sits directly above the leaves, the origin of the common and scientific name *sessile* (stalkless). Smelling the flower will reveal the origin of another of the sessile trillium’s common names: Stinking Benjamin. Though pretty, the flowers produce a putrid odor. Observant hikers may notice some unusual sessile trillium along the trails. Some of them will have 4, 6, 9, even 12 leaves and petals!



Drooping Trillium

Trillium flexipes

As the common name suggests, the flower on the drooping trillium droops. The flower stalk bends, leaving the bloom to hang. Usually the white flower can be seen above the leaves though some droop far enough to hang below the large green leaves. Like the sessile trillium, drooping trillium will form colonies through rhizomes. Individual flowers are common.

Drooping trillium populations are in decline across its range in the United States and Canada. Habitat loss has led this flower to be listed as at risk, of historical occurrence or locally extinct in 40% of its former range.



Continued on page 3

Trilliums Continued from page 2

Large-flowered Trillium

Trillium grandiflorum

Large-flowered trillium, as its name suggests, is large. Stalks reach 12-15" in length and flowers are 2-4" across. Plants are slow to mature, taking several years to produce a single white flower that turns pink as it begins to age. The leaves on this species will grow so large they are able to provide significant cover to small woodland animals. White-tailed deer will browse on the foliage, especially in areas where deer populations are high.

In 1986, the large-flowered trillium was named Ohio's official state wildflower. It is commonly found across the state.



All trillium are long-lived flowers. Food produced in the leaf brackets is stored in root bulbs underground for the following year. Picking trillium is very harmful to the plant; it will take several years for the individual to recover, if it ever does. As with all wildflowers found in the Park District, picking trillium is prohibited.

To learn more about these beautiful flowers and the others found at the parks, join the naturalists for a guided interpretive hike. Check program listings for dates and times, then head out to enjoy the beauty of spring.

Spotlight Species

Northern Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer crucifer*)

Often heard, yet rarely seen, the emergence of spring peepers each year is a sure sign that spring has arrived in Ohio. These diminutive frogs awake from hibernation each year on the first warm and rainy day of spring (or late winter).

The spring peeper is our smallest frog, ranging in length from 3/4" inch to 1 1/4". Though they are difficult to find, they are very common in our area and are frequently heard. If located, they are easily identified by the grey "x" on their back.

The easily recognizable call (peep-peep) can be heard on many warm and wet spring evenings. As with most frogs, spring peepers use their vocal sac to make their call. Despite their tiny size the calls of a spring peeper can be deafening during the peak of mating season, when hundreds of frogs may be calling in the same area at a time.



Spring peepers are commonly found throughout Ohio and Clermont County. During the first warm spring rains they will make their way to the nearest flooded field, ditch, or temporary pool of water. They typically begin breeding in late February or early March and will continue through early May. They are abundant in the wetland at Chilo Lock 34 Park and can also be found breeding in many of the small wet ditches in the fields of Shor Park.

Spring Naturalist Programs

Pancakes in the Park

Saturday March 10

8:30—11:30 am breakfast

Sugarbush tours continue until 12:30 pm

Pattison Park Lodge

See page 9 for more information

Adults \$5.00

Seniors \$4.00

Kids (6-12) \$2.00

Kids (0-5) FREE



Enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast complete with 100% pure maple syrup, then step outside and see how the delicious golden syrup is made right in the park. Take a naturalist guided walk into the sugar bush, visit the sugar shack, and see how early pioneers and native Americans boiled down the sweet sap into



Long Term Butterfly Monitoring Weekly, beginning in April



2012 Long Term Butterfly Monitoring begins April 1st. Volunteers are needed to walk the monitoring route weekly;

no experience or prior knowledge is necessary.

Contact Laura at lhoople@clermontcountyohio.gov for more information.

Preschool Storytime

Sycamore Park

3rd Wednesday of the Month at 1:30

All preschool storytimes will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30, unless otherwise noted.

April 18th: Wildflowers

May 16th: Deer

Bring your preschooler for a special program in the park. Enjoy stories, crafts and hikes with Naturalist Laura and Angie from the

Batavia branch library. Each month features a new topic. **Registration deadline is 3:00 pm on the**

Monday before the program. Call 513.876.9013 to sign up.



Friday Night Stargaze

Friday March 23rd

8:00 pm

Chilo Lock 34 Park

Join the Midwest

Astronomers for an evening of stargazing. They'll bring their expertise and telescopes. If the skies remain clear, we'll get good looks at a thin crescent moon, Venus, Jupiter, Mars, and several constellations.

Feel free to set up your own telescope in the field if you have one.



Frogs and Toads

Friday April 13th

8:00 pm

Shor Park

Spring evenings are filled with the sounds of chorusing frogs and toads. The males put on quite a show as they serenade any interested females.

Join the naturalist as we search the flooded fields and ditches of Shor Park in search of spring peepers, and American Toads. Bring waterproof boots and a flashlight.



Habitat Help Day: Garlic Mustard Pull
Saturday April 14th
Sycamore Park
1:00 pm- 3:00 pm



Saturday April 21st
Chilo Lock 34 Park
1:00—3:00 pm

Volunteers are needed for the annual Spring Habitat Help Day to remove garlic mustard in Sycamore Park and Crooked Run Nature Preserve. All ages are welcome just bring your gloves and be ready to pull! For more information or to pre-register, contact Laura at lhoople@clermontcountyohio.gov or 513.876.9013.



Woodland Wildflower Walks
Thursday April 19th 6:30 pm
Sunday April 22nd 1:00 pm
Sycamore Park

Sycamore Park always boasts a colorful display of spring wildflowers. Join us on a naturalist guided walk as you learn more about our woodland wildflowers. Meet at the bridge.

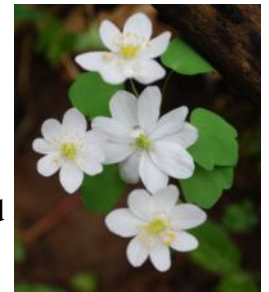


Homeschool: Wildflowers
Friday April 20th
1:00 pm



Sycamore Park

Enjoy the wonderful display of spring wildflowers at Sycamore Park as you discover all there is to know about flowers. We'll discuss the parts of the flower and their function, then we'll try identifying a few. (Program is ideal for ages 8 and up). Call 513.876.9013 to register. **Registration deadline is Wednesday April 18th. Fee is \$2.00 per person.**



East Fork River Sweep
Saturday April 28th
Locations: East Fork State Park, Stonelick State Park, and other sites along the river



- Free use of canoes
- Free lunch and refreshments
- Groups can adopt their own section of river

Participants must register prior to the event. For more information call Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District at 513.732.7075.

To register at East Fork State Park or Stonelick State Park, call the East Fork State Park Office at 513.734.4323.



www.oeg.net

www.clermontswcd.org

Four Seasons Hike: Spring

Saturday May 5th

10:00 am

Sycamore Park/ Wilson Nature Preserve

Spring means more sunshine, blooming wildflowers and bird song. See how the forest has changed from winter as we follow the trails for a second season. Trails are challenging; proper footwear and clothing are recommended. Meet at the bridge.



Spring Walk

Sunday May 20th

11:00 am

Kelley Nature Preserve

Spring is in full swing. The birds are back and the flowers are blooming. Join a naturalist for a leisurely walk along the scenic Little Miami River as you enjoy the sights and sounds of spring. Meet at the information kiosk.



ODNR, Division of Wildlife



www.clermontparks.org

Matt Maupin Memorial Kid's Fishing Tournament

Saturday May 12

11 am — 1 pm

Pattison Park

Children 15 and under are invited to drop a line in our annual kid's fishing tournament. Prizes will be awarded in each age group for biggest fish, smallest fish, most fish as well as several other categories. A free hot dog lunch will be served to all kids participating in the tournament.



Stay Connected

flickrTM

facebook[®]

Have you visited our Facebook or Flickr pages recently? We're always looking for new photos of our parks, so we encourage you to take lots of photos on your next visit to your favorite Clermont County park and upload them to share with everyone.



Park District Speakers Bureau

Are you looking for a speaker for your civic organization, garden club, homeowners association or other local group? The Park District can provide a speaker at no charge to present a program on the Park District facilities and program offerings for free. The program can be tailored to meet your groups allotted time and meeting location. It can cover the parks, funding, operations, programs, and/or future developments.

Call Chris Clingman at 513-732-2977 to find out more information or to reserve a date for your group.



Summer Naturalist Daycamps

June 11—15 Sycamore Park

June 25—29 Chilo Lock 34 Park

9:00 am — 3:00 pm

\$75.00 per child

(entering grades 3-6)

Call 513.876.9013 to sign up

Each child will receive a free T-shirt.



7th Annual Pancakes in the Park & Maple Syrup Festival

Saturday March 10th 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Pattison Park Lodge

2228 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103

Hands on activities continue until 12:30 pm



Enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast with 100% pure maple syrup.
Visit our sugar bush and sugar shack to see how maple syrup is made.



Sample our award winning syrup!
Blue Ribbon Winner
2010 & 2011 Clermont County Fair

Tickets

Adults	\$5.00
Seniors	\$4.00
Children (6-12)	\$2.00
Children (0-5)	Free

Tickets can be purchased at the
door, or in advance by calling
513.732.2977.



** For information on gluten free
pancakes call 513.876.9013.



www.clermontparks.org

Sponsor a Bucket

Help the Park District improve the sugar bush by sponsoring a sap bucket for the 2012 Pancakes in the Park. For \$25.00 each sponsor will have their name placed on a sap bucket along the sugar bush trail during Pancakes in the Park. Each sponsor will also receive two complimentary tickets to the pancake breakfast and a 250 mL bottle of our blue ribbon winning pure maple syrup in a decorative maple leaf shaped glass bottle.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail address _____



Sign description limit 4 lines,
20 characters per line (please print).



Make checks payable to:
Clermont County Park District
2228 US Highway 50
Batavia, OH 45103

Please return application along with
\$25.00 check by Thursday March 8th.



Rock and Roast

Over 200 people enjoyed an evening of camaraderie, good food, and music to support the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike Bike Trail on January 21st at Pattison Park Lodge. Over \$6000 was raised for the trail during the night. The trail committee would like to thank the following sponsors and donors for their support:

Arch Materials
Batavia Central Joint Fire and EMS
Emily Brinkhorn
Deborah Hall Clepper
Cracker Barrel
Fisher Chiropractic
Hey! Mr. DJ – Jason Lefker
Frankie Hughart
Byron Jody
Marty Lambert
Pat Manger
Sam's Club
Lucy and Charles Snell
Mia Supe
Village of Batavia
Denise Wehrum
Williamsburg BP

Amelia Bakery
Batavia Township Trustees
Jim Bushman Family
Dennis and Debbie Clepper
Dingo Photography
Julie Graybill
Holiday Inn Riverfront
Ed Humphrey
Joni's Hair with Style
Tom and Mary Ann Lefker
Medary's
Bob and Carol Sander
Joe and Trevor Speeg
J. Robert True
Village of Williamsburg
Jeff Weir
Chris Wurtenberger

Barbara Weidenbein
Leah Boerger
Butterbees
Clermont Family YMCA
Vince Faris
Doug Green
Holtman's Donuts
Ike's Catering – Ike Clepper
Gary Jordan
Main Street Salon
Julianne Nesbit
Ray Siebert
Williamsburg Spirit
Joe Uecker
Wal-Mart
Don White

Frames on Main – Kim & Rex Parsons
Clermont County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Clermont Crew and Sculling Club at East Fork State Park
Schroeder, Maundrell, Barbieri & Powers Law Firm, Chris Moore



First Annual Luminary Walk a Big Success!

The Park District held the first annual Luminary Walk at Pattison Park on Friday December 8th. The trails were beautifully lit, the gazebo was decorated for Santa's arrival, and the lodge was filled with festive holiday music.

Thanks to the following individuals and groups who donated their time to make this event a big success!

American Heritage Girls Troop OH2004
Steve Featherston
Richard Mallott

"Ear Candy" - Clermont Northeastern High School's a cappella choir.



2011 By the Numbers

2011 was another successful year in the Park District. The Park District's rental facilities continue to be a very popular attraction to local residents. Rental facilities were used 430 times throughout the year, bringing an estimated 35,000 additional people to the parks. The Yurts at Chilo Lock 34 Park continue to be a very popular winter camping destination for many local scout troops.



The Naturalist Department held its first ever summer daycamp programs.

A week long day camp was held at Sycamore Park and Chilo Lock 34 Park in June. The daycamps were a wonderful opportunity for local school aged children to explore the natural beauty of their Clermont County parks.



The Park District also added two new annual special events in 2011. The Fall Festival at Chilo Lock 34 Park brought an estimated 450 people to Chilo Lock 34 Park on a warm and sunny October afternoon. Meanwhile, the Luminary Walk at Pattison Park attracted an estimated 250 people in December to kick off the festive holiday season. Look for both events to be held again in 2012.

Overall, over 2,100 people (a record high) attended public naturalist programs in 2011, while an additional 3,100 students attended school naturalist programs.

The Visitor Center at Chilo Lock 34 Park continues to attract new visitors who are interested in the rich and fascinating history of the site. Over 8,200 people came through the visitor center and museum in 2011. We are currently working on a new display in the visitor center that will be an added enjoyment for visitors of all ages. We hope the new display will be completed in the summer of 2012.

The Park District is continuing to work with the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike Bike Trail committee. When completed, phase II of the trail will take visitors to the campground at East Fork State Park. Look for more information on the bike trail project as 2012 progresses.

Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum Spring Hours

March 1—11

Friday—Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm

March 12— April 30

Thursday—Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm
(except Easter Sunday)

May

Wednesday—Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm



Asian Longhorned Beetle Invades Clermont County

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture are continuing to monitor the status of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) in Clermont County. The ALB is an invasive destructive pest native to Asia. The ALB feeds on its host tree and will eventually kill it. The ALB prefers maples, but will also use buckeye, hackberry elm, ash, birch, and willows as its host tree. If the ALB continues to spread, it will be very destructive, resulting in thousands of dead trees.



In 2011, the USDA began cutting heavily infested trees in Tate Township to prevent the spread of ALB. As of February 25, 90,754 trees have been surveyed. 6,740 trees have been confirmed as infested, and 4,684 infested trees have been removed within the [56 square mile quarantine zone](http://www.beetlebusters.info). If you find Evidence of the ALB on your property, report it to the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 1-855-252-6450. Please help stop the spread of this destructive invasive pest by not moving any firewood. For more information about the Asian Longhorned Beetle visit www.beetlebusters.info



Adult ALB showing egg laying sites on tree bark.



Egg laying sites in tree bark.



Tree showing multiple exit holes, where adult ALB's emerged.



An adult ALB emerging from the inside of a tree. After transforming from pupae to adult, ALB's bore perfectly round dime sized exit holes on host trees.



Close up of the perfectly round, dime sized exit hole.



If you find evidence of the Asian Longhorned Beetle, report it to the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 1-855-252-6450 For more information on the Asian Longhorn Beetle visit www.beetlebusters.info

Picnic Shelter Rentals

The Park District has picnic shelters for rent at Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park, and Pattison Park for your summer picnic or family gathering.

Call the Park District administrative office at 513.732.2977 to make your reservation or check on availability.



<i>Park/Shelter</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Fee</i>
Chilo Lock 34 Park	50	\$75
Pattison Park	150	\$100
Sycamore Woods	50	\$75
Sycamore #2	150	\$100

Pattison Lodge and Gazebo & Hartman Log Cabin



Pattison Lodge and Gazebo Rental Rates

In Season (May 15— October 15)

Monday through Thursday \$200

Friday and Sunday \$475

Saturday \$550

Out of Season (October 16—May 14)

Monday through Thursday \$200

Friday and Sunday \$425

Saturday \$500



Hartman Log Cabin Rental Rates

In Season Rates (May 15-October 15)

Monday through Thursday \$125

Friday through Sunday \$175

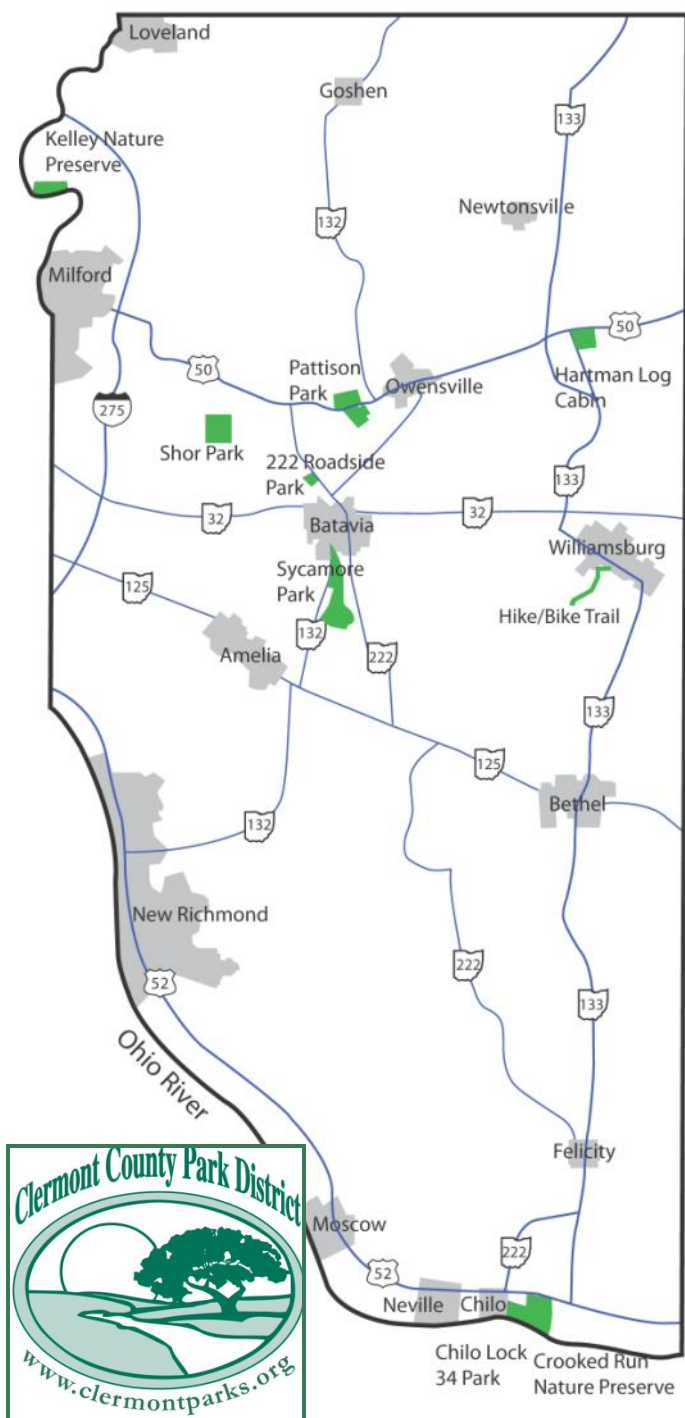
**Includes the use of the picnic shelter*

Out of Season Rates (October 16—May 14)

Monday through Sunday

\$125





Mission Statement

To acquire, plan, develop, program, and maintain park property in the county for residents and nonresidents alike. To secure the preservation of open space and places of scenic or historical value.

Monthly board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 12:00 pm in Pattison Park Lodge. All meetings are open to the public. For more information call 513.732.2977.

Chilo Lock 34 Park 39 acres

521 County Park Road Chilo, OH 45112
513.876.9013

Crooked Run Nature Preserve 77 acres

521 County Park Road Chilo, OH 45112

Hartman Log Cabin 5 acres

5272 Aber Road Williamsburg, OH 45176

Kelley Nature Preserve 42 acres

297 Center Street Loveland, OH 45140

Pattison Park 45 acres

2228 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103
513.732.2977

Shor Park 56 acres

4659 Tealtown Road Batavia, OH 45103

Sycamore Park 53 acres

4082 State Route 132 Batavia, OH 45103

Wilson Nature Preserve 105 acres

4082 State Route 132 Batavia, OH 45103

Williamsburg - Batavia Hike/Bike Trail

Broadway Road Williamsburg, OH 45176
2.5 miles long

Contact Information

Administrative Office

2228 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103
513.732.2977
parkdistrict@clermontcountyohio.gov

Naturalist Office

PO Box 106 Chilo, OH 45112
513.876.9013

Board of Park Commissioners

David Anspach Kenneth Stewart
William Stearns, *Chairman*

Chris Clingman, *Director*

www.clermontparks.org